

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers, comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers;

rule management means, for storing a rule that, in advance, defines a charge calculation method that is employed in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered, wherein the charge calculation method includes at least one rule based instruction for calculating a discount, wherein said at least one rule based instruction references a discount table that includes a discount threshold value; and

calculation means, for, in accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said database, obtaining for a pertinent customer, from said rule management means, said rule that defines a charge calculation method, and for calculating a charge.

2. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for calculating charges to customers, comprising:

a database, for managing customer data required for calculating said charges to customers;

rule management means, for storing a rule that, in advance, defines a charge calculation method that is employed in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered;

a discount table, which is described in said rule that defines a charge calculation method, for storing a charge discount ratio that is employed for said charge calculation in accordance with the type of customer service that is rendered, wherein the discount table further includes a set of change point identifiers and associated discount threshold values; and

calculation means, for, in accordance with the contents of said customer data read from said database, obtaining for a pertinent customer, from said rule management means, said rule that defines a charge calculation method, and for calculating a charge by referring to said charge discount ratio defined in said pertinent rule.

3. (New) The data processing system of claim 2, wherein the rule further defines a desired change point identifier.